



## ***Caring for the Earth***

### **Engage: Page 135**

- ▶ **Ask:** *Do you think the slogan "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" pleases God? Why or why not?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. **Say:** *In this session we'll learn about our responsibility to care for God's creation.*
- ▶ **Ask:** *How do you show respect for your special outdoor place? Pray aloud the prayer together.*

### **Explore: Pages 136–137**

- ▶ **Say:** *Name some leaders, such as coaches, teachers, priests, mayors, or presidents.*  
**Ask:** *What qualities do you think such leaders possess? (good judgment, intelligence, experience, wisdom)* **Say:** *God gives us the responsibility to lead others in caring for his creation.*
- ▶ Have your child read silently Our God-Given Responsibility and Ruling with Love and Wisdom on page 136. Point out the vocabulary word. **Ask:** *How can we use our dominion over the earth to uphold God's moral law? (by conserving water and energy, by recycling)*
- ▶ Read aloud Environmental Abuse. Discuss your child's examples.
- ▶ Have your child read silently Solidarity on page 137. **Say:** *When we ask others to help us fulfill our responsibility to care for God's creation, we are showing unity with God and with others. Another word for unity is solidarity.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *How does this psalm show us how to love God's creation as he intended?*

### **Art Exploration: Page 251**

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of human life coexisting with nature.
- ▶ **Say:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what is from nature and what is made by humans.
- ▶ **Say:** *Let us find ways to preserve and protect God's good earth.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 251. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Have your child read aloud Gospel of Life: A Letter to the Church. **Ask:** *What are the main points of the pope's letter?* (All life is sacred; all life is a gift from God; we have a responsibility to care for the earth.)
- ▶ Read aloud Care for the Environment. Allow time for your child to write ways he or she can actively preserve the environment.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *The Prayer of the Faithful is proclaimed by a reader or cantor and is followed by a concluding prayer offered by a priest.*
- ▶ Invite your child to choose a medium to make an art piece that shows one human-made thing surrounded by nature. Tell your child to give the artwork a title. Discuss the picture and display it in your home.

### Reflect: Pages 138–139

- ▶ Together look at page 138. **Say:** *The girl in the picture works in a garden. Listen as I pray the Act of Love. Think about ways you show your love of God by caring for and loving others.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph and pray the Act of Love. Read aloud the last paragraph slowly, pausing briefly after each sentence. Allow time for prayer and reflection. Close by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Display local maps for your child to look at. **Say:** *All around us is God's creation. Our God-given responsibility to care for the earth may seem overwhelming. We can begin by thinking about things we can care for in our own environments.*
- ▶ Read aloud Exercise Your Dominion on page 189.
- ▶ Provide colored pencils and have your child complete the drawing. Discuss areas that need to be improved and what can be done to improve them.

### Respond: Page 140

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can respect the natural world and recognize the presence of God in every living thing.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.